Message Text

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SECRET MANAMA 1393

EXDIS

CORRECTEDCOPY (TEXT PARA THREE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, BA, TC

SUBJECT: POLITICAL TENSION IN UAE: BAHRAINI REPRESENTATIONS AND SHAH'S MESSAGE

REF: MANAMA 1358

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIRMED TO ME JUNE 19, ON HIS RETURN FROM UAE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THAT SHAH HW

SASKED BAHRAINIS TO EXPRESS TO UAE LEADERS IRAN'S CONCERN THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO RESOLVE INTERNAL DISPUTES, HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT GOB HAD PLANNED TRIP BY PRIME MINISTER TO UAE BEFORE AMIR'S VISIT TO IRAN.

2. FONMIN SAID PRIME MINISTER HAD MADE ONE MAIN POINT TO BOTH SHAIKH ZAYYID AND SHAIKH RASHID: UAE'S PROBLEMS SECRET

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ARE MORE THAN AN INTERNAL AFFAIR; FAILURE TO RESOLVE THEM EXPEDITIOUSLY WILL IMPACT VERY UNFAVORABLY ON INTERESTS OF ALL UAE'S NEIGHBORS. UAE SHOULD REALIZE THAT CONDITIONS IN AREA -- PDRY AS SOVIET CLIENT, RESURGENCE OF DHOFAR REBELLION, COMMUNIST REGIME IN KABUL -- DO NOT PREMIT IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR BY AREA STATES WHICH ARE THREATENED BY THESE TRENDS AND EVENTS.

PRIME MINISTER TOLD UAE LEADERSIA T ALL OF UAE'S FRIENDS BELIEVEDD THAT UAE HAD OVERCOME MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE PAST AND WERE CONFIDENT IT COULD DO SO AGAIN, NOW, IN ITS OWN INTERESTS AND IN INTERESTS OF GULF AS A WHOLE.

3. I ASKED WHAT SHAH'S MESSAGE TO UAE LEWCDRS HAD BEEN. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID IT WAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS GOB'S ABOVE, WITH ONE ADDED SPECIFIC POINT: IRAN HAS HAD LONG AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH DUBAI AND SHAIKH RASHID BUT THAT RELATIONSHIP DID NOT AND WOULD NOT EXTEND TO SUPPORT FOR HIM IN EVENT HE MOVED TO PULL DUBAI OUT OF UAE. ON CONTRARY, IRAN HOPED SHAIKH RASHID WOULD WORK HARD TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES AND GET ON WITH ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF UAE AS STABLE AND RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF GULF COMMUNITY.

4. IA ASKED WHAT UAE LEADERS' RESPONSES HAD BEEN. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID BOTH RASHID AND ZAYYID APPRECIATED BAHRAIN'S EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND POINT OF VIEW SHICH THEY SAID WAS FIRST THEY HAVE HEARD FROM FRIENDS IN GULF. FONMIN SAID RASHID ASSURED BAHRAINIS THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION WHATEVER OF BREAKING YV UAE, AND THAT HE WOULD OF COURSE MAKE CERTAIN SHAH AND OTHERS UNDERSTOOD THIS. ACCORDING FONMIN, ZAYYID AGREED THAT UAE LEADERS PERHAPS HAS BEEN TOO INWARD

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LOOKING AND AGREED AS WELL THAT EVENTS IN AREA DID GIVE UAE'S

NEIGHBORS LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN HOW UAE MOVED TO RESOLVE ITS PROBLEMS. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID GOB HAD BEEN INVITED TO MEDIATE ZAYYID-RASHID DISPUTE BUT PRIME MINISTER HAD DECLINED ON GROUNDS REAL NEED FOR MEDIATION WOULD NOT BE EVIDENT UNTIL PARTIES THEMSELVES HAD MADE MUCH GREATER EFFORTS. FONMIN DID NOT SAY WHICH LEADER HAD ASKED FOR GOB MEDIATION.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER CLEARLY FELT HIS AND PRIME MINISTER'S JUNE 17-18 VISIT TO UAE HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED AND SUCCESSFUL TO EXTENT UAD LEADERS NOW BEGINNING TO REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO WHOLE REGION, NOT JUST TO THEM, THAT UAE PUT ITS HOUSE IN ORDER. HE APPRECIATED POINTS I SHARED WITH HIM (STATE 141246) AND SAID HE IS PLEASED THAT USG HAS BEEN ALERT AND RESPONSIVE TO SITUATION IN UAE. CLUVERIUS

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